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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/640,627	08/14/2003	Brad Grossman	1875.4580000	8449
26111 7590 11/17/2008 STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C. 1100 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005				
EXAMINER HOFFMAN, BRANDON S				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2436				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
11/17/2008		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/640,627

**Applicant(s)**

GROSSMAN ET AL.

**Examiner**

BRANDON S. HOFFMAN

**Art Unit**

2436

**Period for Reply** -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 August 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 9, 10, 14-16 and 18-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 9, 10, 14-16 and 18-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-6, 9, 10, 14-16, and 18-26 are currently pending in this office action, claims 11 and 13 are newly cancelled.

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on August 27, 2008, has been entered.
3. Applicant's arguments, filed August 27, 2008, are moot in view of the new ground of rejection.

***Claim Rejections***

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. Claims 1-6, 9, 10, 14-16, and 18-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohara et al. (USPN '588) in view of Quan (U.S. Patent No. 6,826,352).

Regarding claim 1, Ohara et al. teaches a timing generator for use within a video processing device, comprising:

- A random access memory (col. 5, lines 4-22);
- A plurality of microsequencers coupled to said random access memory that produce flags based on programs stored in said random access memory (col. 4, lines 16-26 and col. 12, lines 36-60); and
- A programmable combinational logic module, coupled to said plurality of microsequencers that generates control signals based on the flags produced by said plurality of microsequencers (col. 13, lines 33-47).

Ohara et al. does not specifically teach supporting a copy protection process, **wherein the programmable combinational logic module is reconfigured to permit modifications in the copy protection process.**

Quan teaches supporting a copy protection process (fig. 4A), **wherein the programmable combinational logic module is reconfigured to permit modifications in the copy protection process** (abstract).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine supporting a copy protection process, wherein the module is permitted modifications in the copy protection process, as taught by Quan, with the timing generator of Ohara et al. It would have been obvious for such modifications because the copy protection process helps prevent copying of video signals.

Regarding claim 2, Ohara et al. as modified by Quan teaches further comprising a plurality of shift registers, coupled to said plurality of microsequencers that provide operating parameters to said plurality of microsequencers (see col. 12, lines 54-60 of Ohara et al.).

Regarding claim 3, Ohara et al. as modified by Quan teaches further comprising a means for downloading software changes to said timing generator while said timing generator is processing a video signal without substantial interference to a video signal being processed (see fig. 10 of Ohara et al.).

Regarding claims 4 and 15, Ohara et al. as modified by Quan teaches further comprising an instruction set that enables said plurality of microsequencers to share said random access memory (see col. 5, lines 10-16 of Ohara et al.).

Regarding claim 5, Ohara et al. as modified by Quan teaches wherein said plurality of microsequencers includes between two and ten microsequencers (see fig. 14, ref. num 370 of Ohara et al.).

Regarding claim 6, Ohara et al. as modified by Quan teaches wherein said plurality of microsequencers includes seven microsequencers (see fig. 14, ref. num 370 of Ohara et al.).

Regarding claim 9, Ohara et al. as modified by Quan teaches wherein said video processing device is a television (see col. 4, line 27 of Ohara et al.).

Regarding claim 10, Ohara et al. as modified by Quan teaches wherein said video processing device is a cable set-top box (see col. 4, lines 3-26 of Ohara et al.).

Regarding claim 14, Ohara et al. teaches a method for generating a time-dependent control signal for video signals, comprising the steps of:

- Storing a plurality of programs within a random access memory (col. 5, lines 4-22);
- Accessing a plurality of programs stored within the random access memory (col. 7, lines 63-66);
- Executing a set of programs from said plurality of programs by a plurality of microsequencers to generate a set of flags (col. 4, lines 16-26 and col. 12, lines 36-60);

- Generating a control signal based on the set of flags through application of programmable combinational logic (col. 13, lines 33-47); and
- Outputting said control signal (fig. 14, ref. num 432).

Ohara et al. does not specifically teach supporting a copy protection process, **wherein the programmable combinational logic module is reconfigured to permit modifications in the copy protection process.**

Quan teaches supporting a copy protection process (fig. 4A), **wherein the programmable combinational logic module is reconfigured to permit modifications in the copy protection process** (abstract).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine supporting a copy protection process, wherein the module is permitted modifications in the copy protection process, as taught by Quan, with the method of Ohara et al. It would have been obvious for such modifications because the copy protection process helps prevent copying of video signals.

Regarding claim 16, Ohara et al. as modified by Quan teaches wherein the step of executing is completed in parallel by a plurality of microsequencers (see fig. 14, ref. num 370 of Ohara et al.).

Regarding claim 18, Ohara et al. as modified by Quan teaches wherein the control signal is a horizontal sync control signal (see col. 4, lines 38-41 of Ohara et al.).

Regarding claim 19, Ohara et al. as modified by Quan teaches wherein the control signal is an external horizontal sync control signal (see col. 4, lines 38-41 of Ohara et al.).

Regarding claim 20, Ohara et al. as modified by Quan teaches wherein the control signal is an external vertical sync control signal (see col. 4, lines 38-41 of Ohara et al.).

Regarding claim 21, Ohara et al. as modified by Quan teaches wherein the control signal is a vertical blanking active control signal (see col. 6, lines 1-5 of Ohara et al.).

Regarding claim 22, Ohara et al. as modified by Quan teaches wherein the control signal is a color burst control signal (see col. 4, lines 38-41 of Ohara et al.).

Regarding claims 23 and 24, Ohara et al. as modified by Quan teaches wherein the control signal is a U Flip control signal/V Flip control signal (see fig. 8B of Quan).

Regarding claim 25, Ohara et al. as modified by Quan teaches wherein the control signal is a vertical sync control signal (see col. 4, lines 38-41 of Ohara et al.).



Regarding claim 26, Ohara et al. as modified by Quan teaches wherein the control signal is a vertical blank control signal (see col. 6, lines 1-5 of Ohara et al.).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brandon S. Hoffman whose telephone number is 571-272-3863. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nasser G. Moazzami can be reached on 571-272-4195. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Brandon S Hoffman/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2436